



Geoffrey Starks
Commissioner

**Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

July 2, 2019

Filed electronically via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of ex parte communication, WC Docket No. 18-213

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On Wednesday, June 26, 2019, the undersigned and Brylan Droddy, a legal intern in the Office of Commissioner Starks, met with Coleman Drake of the University of Pittsburgh, Daniel Polsky of John Hopkins University, and Nicole Lurie, Strategic Advisor to the CEO at Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness, to discuss their study, The Limitations of Poor Broadband Access for Telemedicine Use in Rural America. We discussed the study's finding that while very rural areas would benefit from the use of telemedicine, these areas often lack sufficient broadband coverage to deploy those services, and due to rural hospital and emergency department closures, their need for telemedicine is only increasing.

We discussed whether the most efficient approach to a Connected Care Pilot Program would direct support to providers or to patients. While Ms. Lurie and Messrs. Drake and Polsky were not aware of any studies on the issue, they agreed that studying the matter would be important and expressed an interest in filing comments on the Commission's proposed rulemaking. They also emphasized the importance of the FCC coordinating with insurers and other federal agencies to create the best plan moving forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Davenport
Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor
Office of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks